

Tales

# Little Red Riding Hood



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Adapted from  
The Brothers Grimm  
by  
**Gennady  
Spirin**





IN CANADA  
\$20.95



**Gennady Spirin**, in his adaptation of the Brothers Grimm's earliest version of "Little Red Cap," tells the classic story of a young girl in a red hood who takes a cake to her sick grandmother. Along the way, she meets a wicked wolf who tricks her into thinking he's her granny. Sumptuous illustrations, inspired by the golden age of Dutch painting in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and the Renaissance, capture the charm and spirit of a tale that has remained steadfast in oral and written versions through the centuries.












# Little Red Riding Hood







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MARSHALL CAVENDISH CHILDREN





## A NOTE ABOUT THE STORY

The tale, “Little Red Riding Hood,” has appeared in many versions throughout history. As far back as the fourteenth century, a French oral variant depicted the wolf as a werewolf and Little Red Riding Hood as a smart little girl who escapes the wolf’s advances by using her wits. In 1697, the French writer Charles Perrault published a version, “*Le Petit Chaperon Rouge*,” in *Histoires ou contes du temps passé, avec des moralités* (*Stories or Tales of Past Times with Morals*), in which he introduced the red hood and described Little Red Riding Hood as an “attractive, well-bred young lady” who later gets eaten by the wolf.

My retelling is based on the Brothers Grimm’s earliest version, *Rotkäppchen*, published in 1812 in *Kinder-und Hausmärchen* (*Children’s and Household Tales*), but, as in the Russian story that I heard as a child, I included two hunters instead of one. I omitted also the scene in which Little Red Riding Hood and her grandmother place stones in the wolf’s stomach before he dies.

I enjoyed illustrating and retelling the version you find here, as “Little Red Riding Hood” has always been one of my favorite tales.

—Gennady Spirin

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The illustrations are rendered in watercolor and colored pencil.

Book design by Michael Nelson Editor: Margery Cuyler

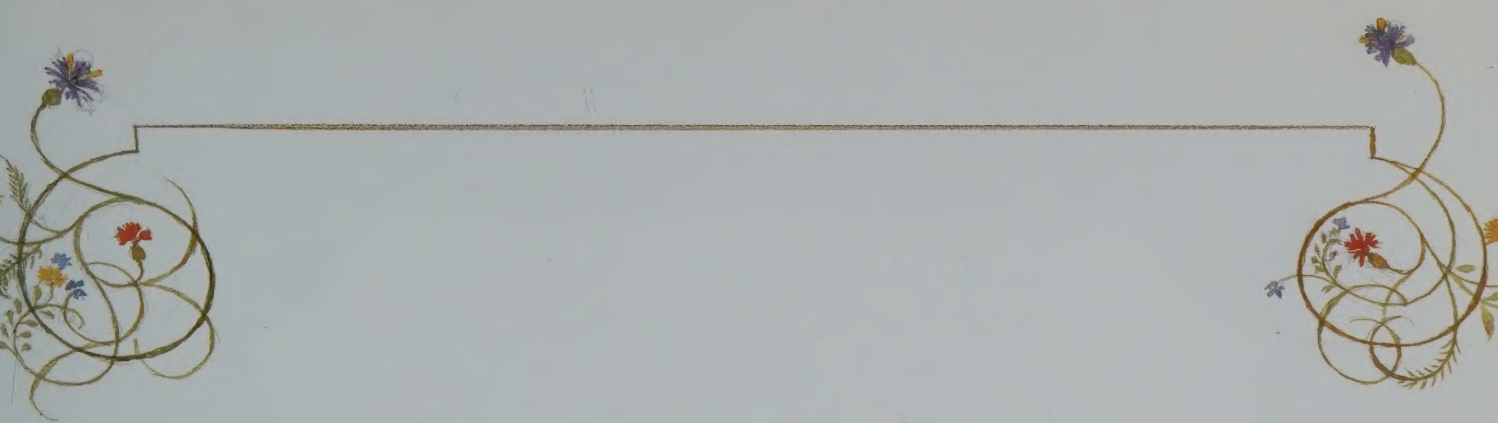
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Children








*For my grandson, Nikolai*



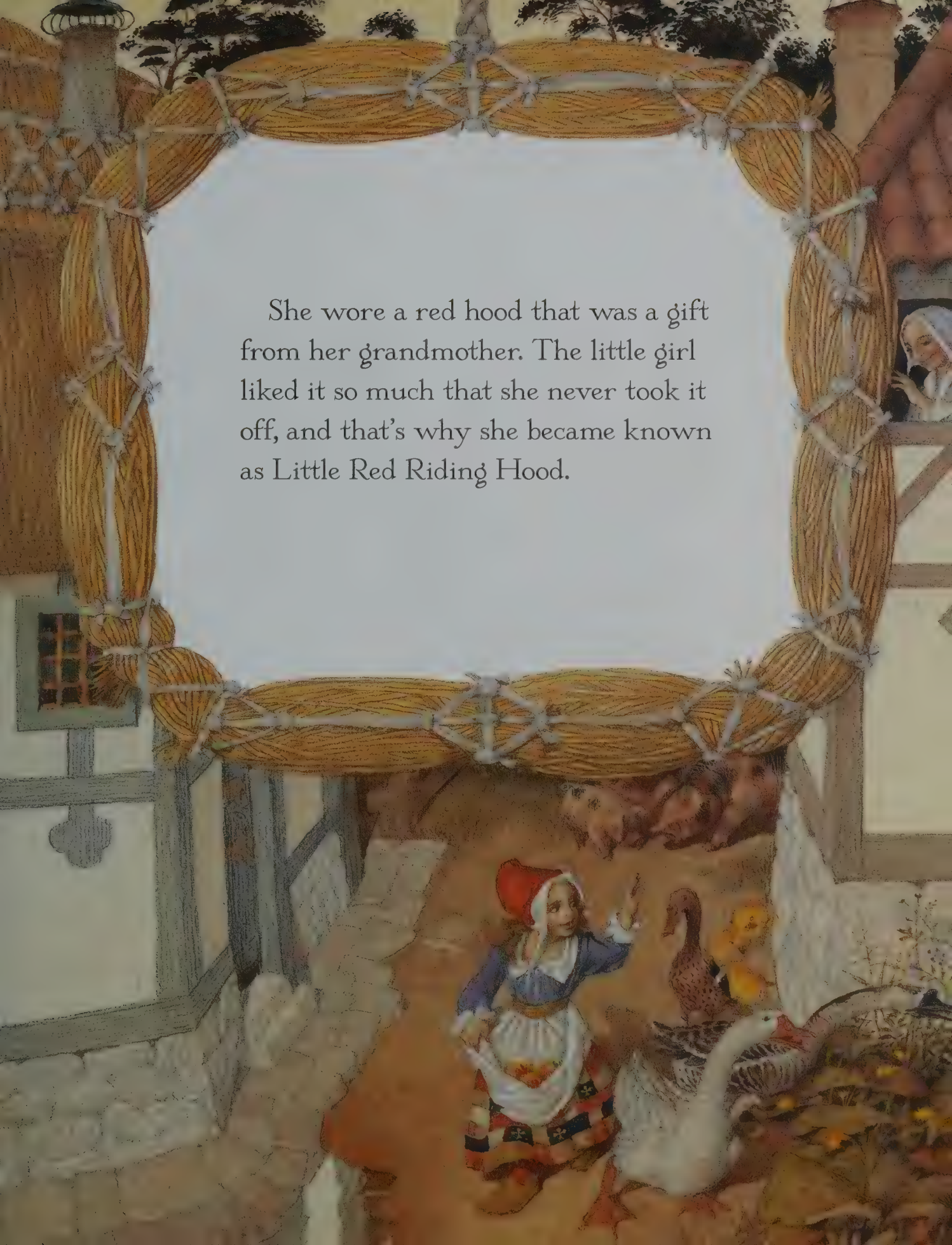




Once upon a time,  
there was a little girl  
who was loved by everyone.







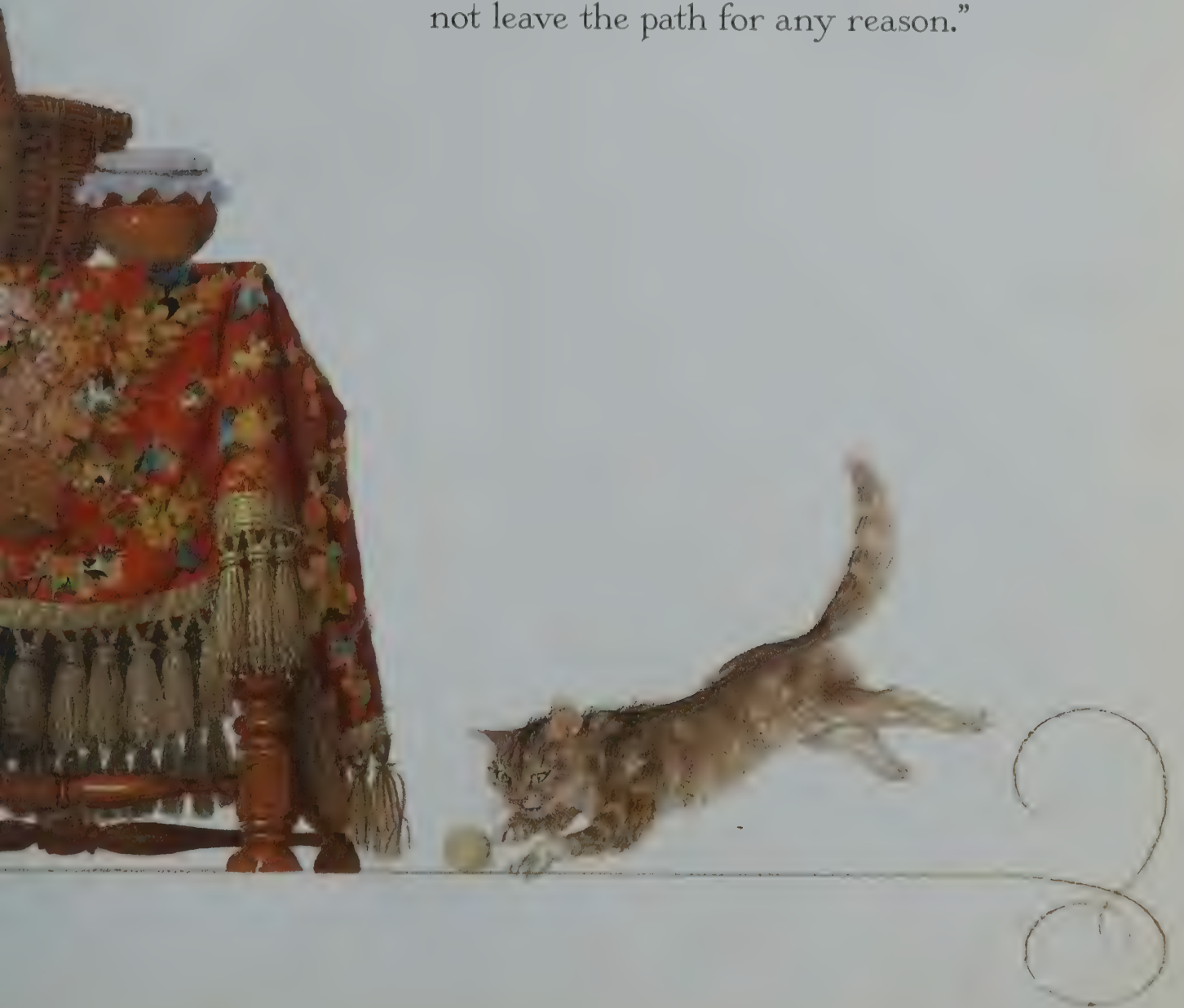
She wore a red hood that was a gift from her grandmother. The little girl liked it so much that she never took it off, and that's why she became known as Little Red Riding Hood.







One day, Little Red Riding Hood's mother said to her, "Would you take this cake to your grandmother? She is sick in bed, and this food will make her feel better. Mind your manners and do not leave the path for any reason."











Little Red Riding Hood  
took the basket and set off.

As she was walking through the woods,  
she met a large wolf.

“Good morning,” said the wolf. “Where are  
you going so early in the day?”

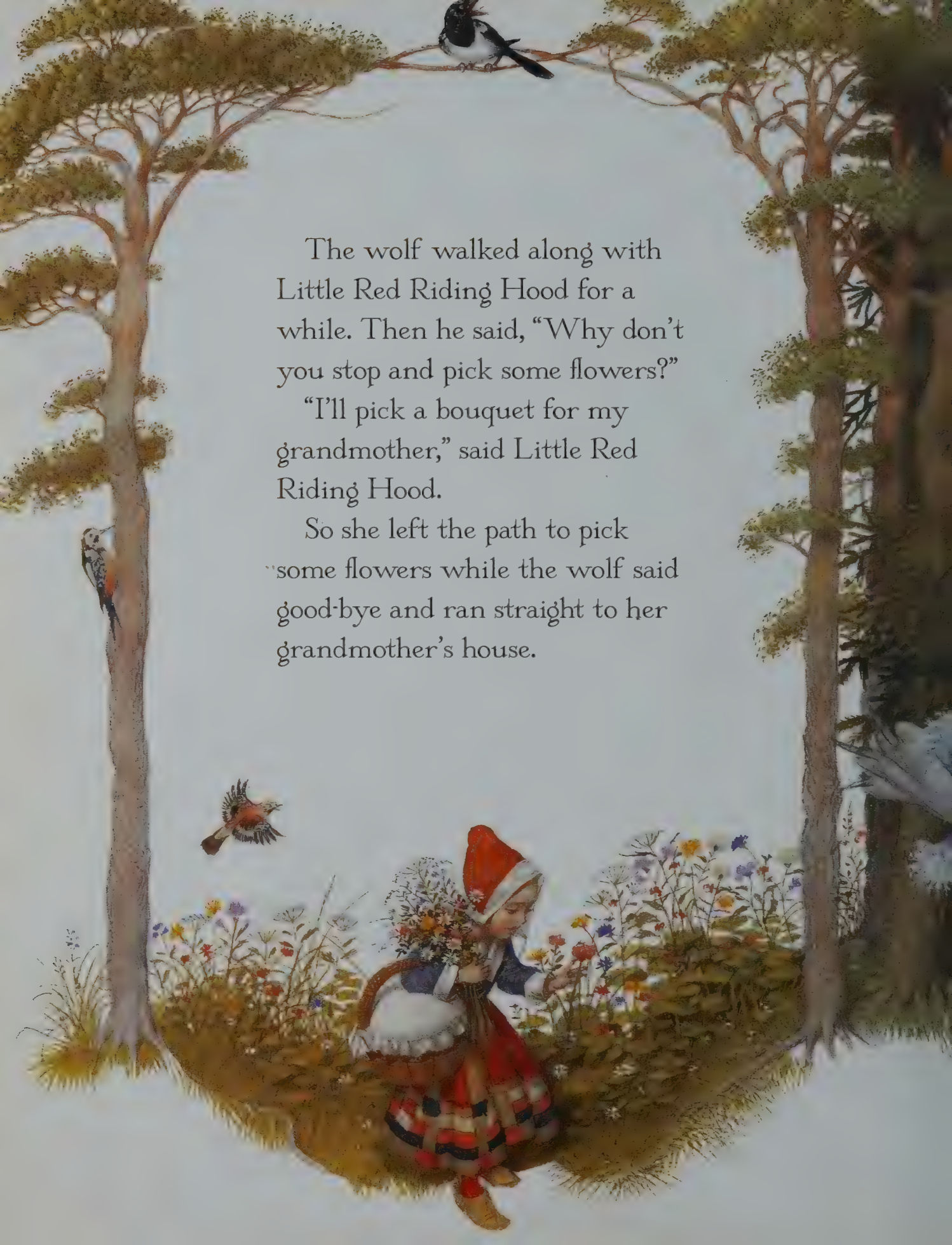
“To Grandmother’s house,” said Little Red  
Riding Hood. “She’s sick in bed, and my  
mother says the cake in this basket will make  
her feel better.”

“Oh,” said the wolf. “And where does your  
grandmother live?”

“She lives in a house under three big oak  
trees,” said Little Red Riding Hood.

“I know just where that  
is,” said the wolf.



The illustration depicts a forest setting. Two tall, slender trees with green foliage frame the central text. A black and white bird is perched on a branch at the top center. On the left tree, a woodpecker is visible. In the lower left, a small bird is in flight. At the bottom center, Little Red Riding Hood is shown in a field of colorful flowers, wearing her iconic red hood and a red and white dress with a striped skirt. She is holding a basket and looking down at the flowers. The background is a soft, light blue sky.

The wolf walked along with  
Little Red Riding Hood for a  
while. Then he said, "Why don't  
you stop and pick some flowers?"

"I'll pick a bouquet for my  
grandmother," said Little Red  
Riding Hood.

So she left the path to pick  
some flowers while the wolf said  
good-bye and ran straight to her  
grandmother's house.













He knocked on the door.

TAP! TAP! TAP!

“Who’s there?” came an old, crackly voice.

“Little Red Riding Hood,” said the wolf in a voice as sweet as honey.

“Come right in,” said Grandmother. “I’m sick in bed.”

The wolf opened the door and saw the grandmother lying against a big pillow.







Before she could even blink, the wolf jumped  
on her bed and gobbled her up!









Then he put on one of her  
bed caps and pulled the covers  
up to his neck.

Soon, along came Little Red  
Riding Hood.

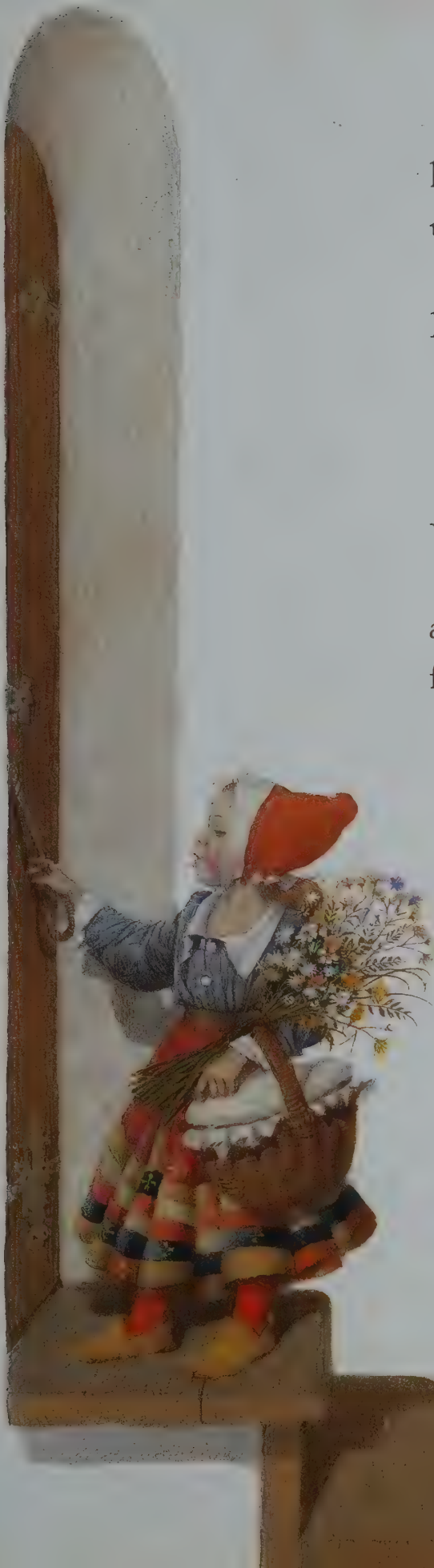
She knocked on the door.

TAP! TAP! TAP!

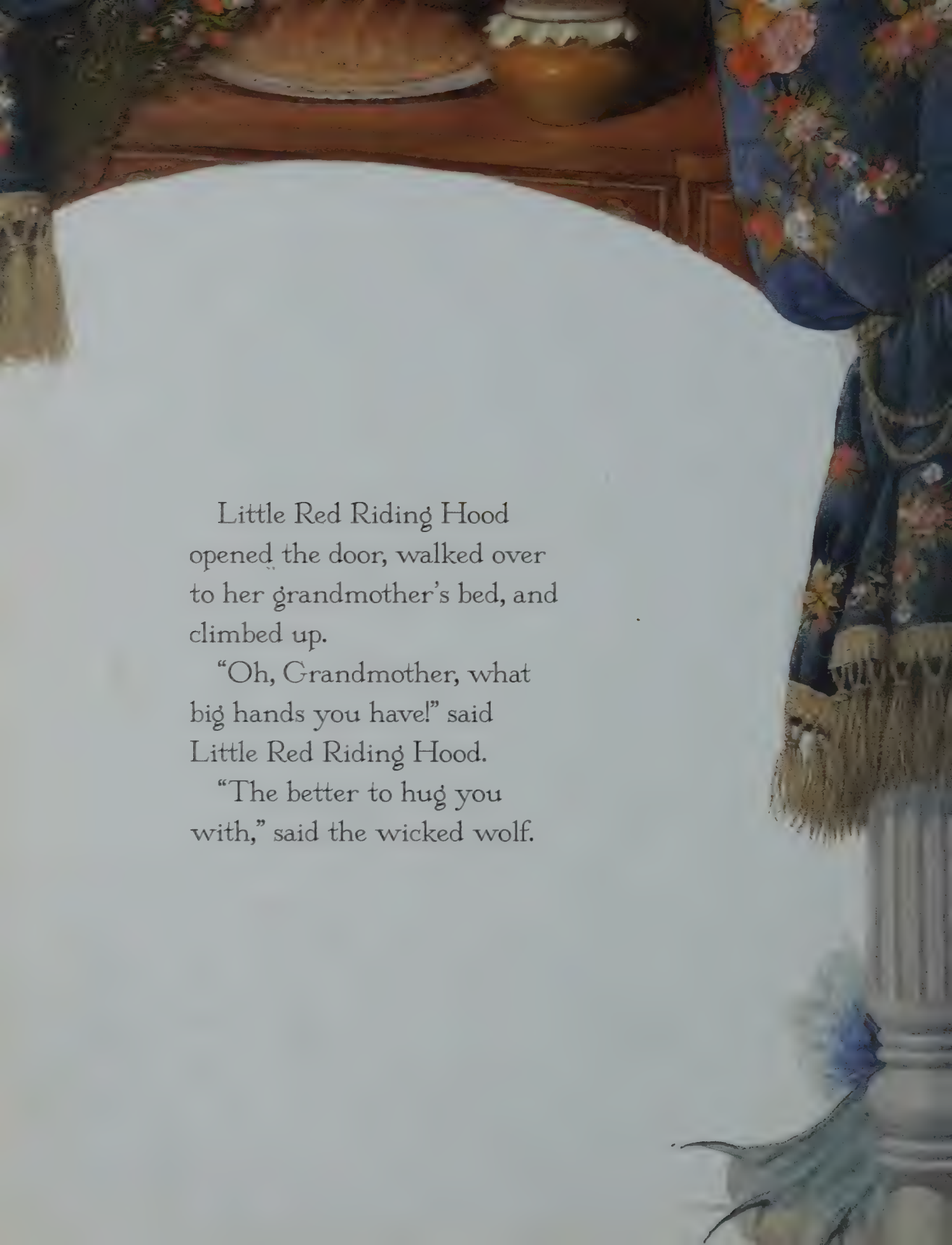
"Who's there?" asked the wicked  
wolf in an old woman's voice.

"It's Little Red Riding Hood,  
and I've brought you some cake  
from Mother."

"Come in," called the wolf.







Little Red Riding Hood  
opened the door, walked over  
to her grandmother's bed, and  
climbed up.

"Oh, Grandmother, what  
big hands you have!" said  
Little Red Riding Hood.

"The better to hug you  
with," said the wicked wolf.









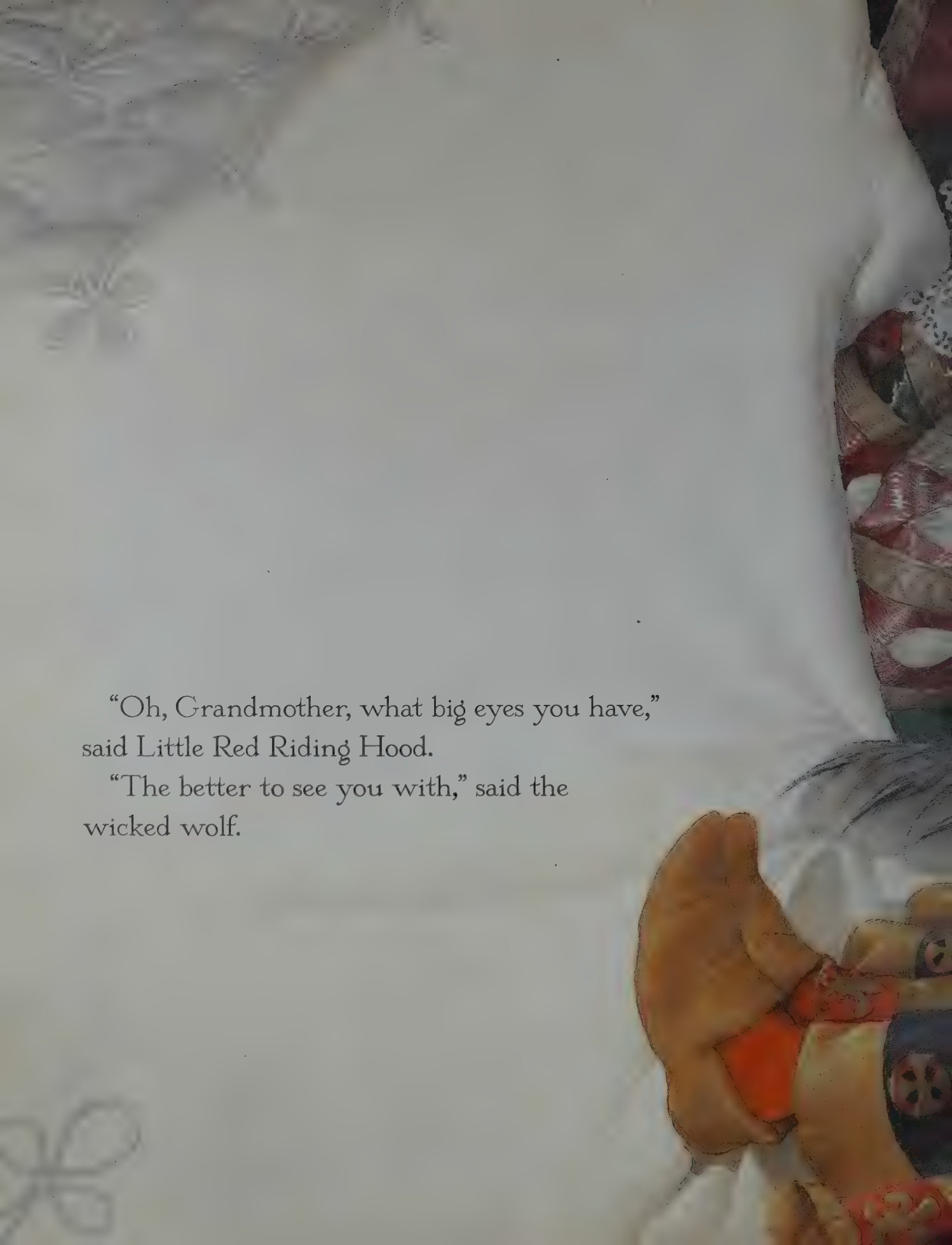




“Oh, Grandmother, what big ears you have,”  
said Little Red Riding Hood.

“The better to hear you with,” said the  
wicked wolf.



The background of the page is a soft-focus illustration. On the right side, the back of Little Red Riding Hood is visible, wearing a red hooded cloak and a patterned dress. In the bottom right corner, the head of the Wicked Wolf is shown, with large, round, patterned eyes and a wide, toothy grin. The wolf's fur is brown and orange. The overall scene is set against a light, textured background with faint floral patterns.

“Oh, Grandmother, what big eyes you have,”  
said Little Red Riding Hood.

“The better to see you with,” said the  
wicked wolf.

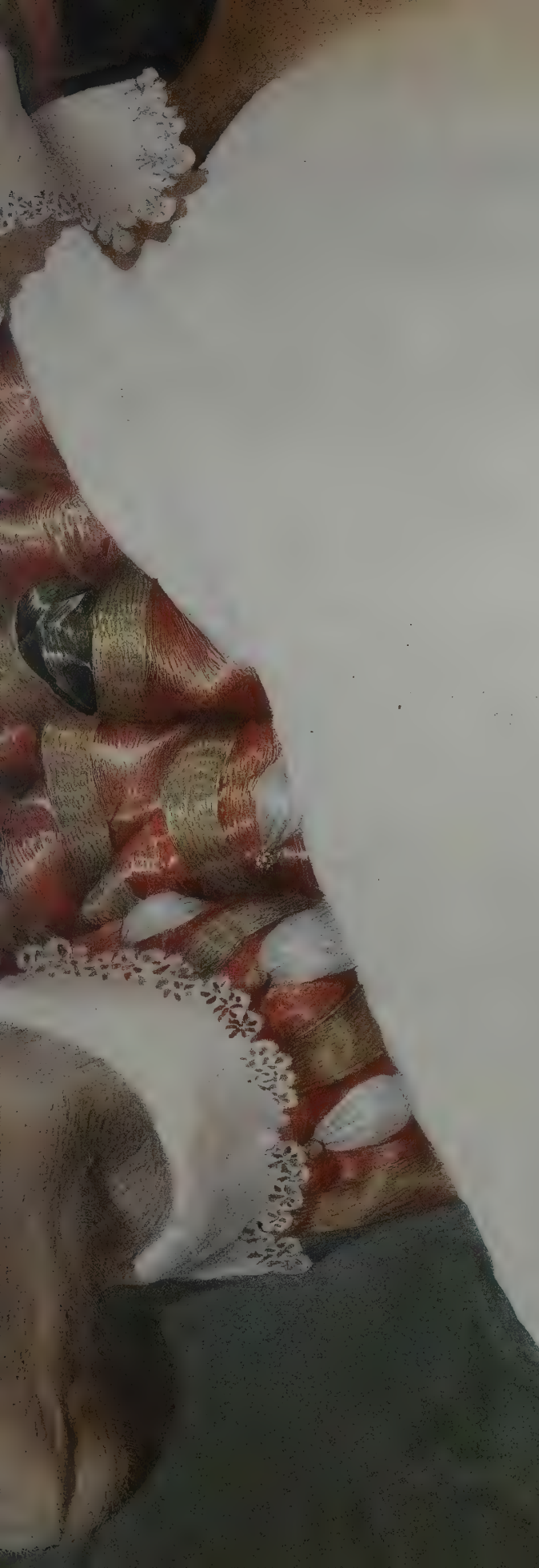












“Oh, Grandmother, what big teeth you have,” said Little Red Riding Hood.

“The better to eat you with!” said the wicked wolf.

And with that, he leaped out of bed and swallowed Little Red Riding Hood in one, big gulp. Then he climbed back under the covers and fell fast asleep. Soon he was snoring.



After a while, two hunters passed by the house.

"How the old lady snores," said one. "Let's see if she is all right."

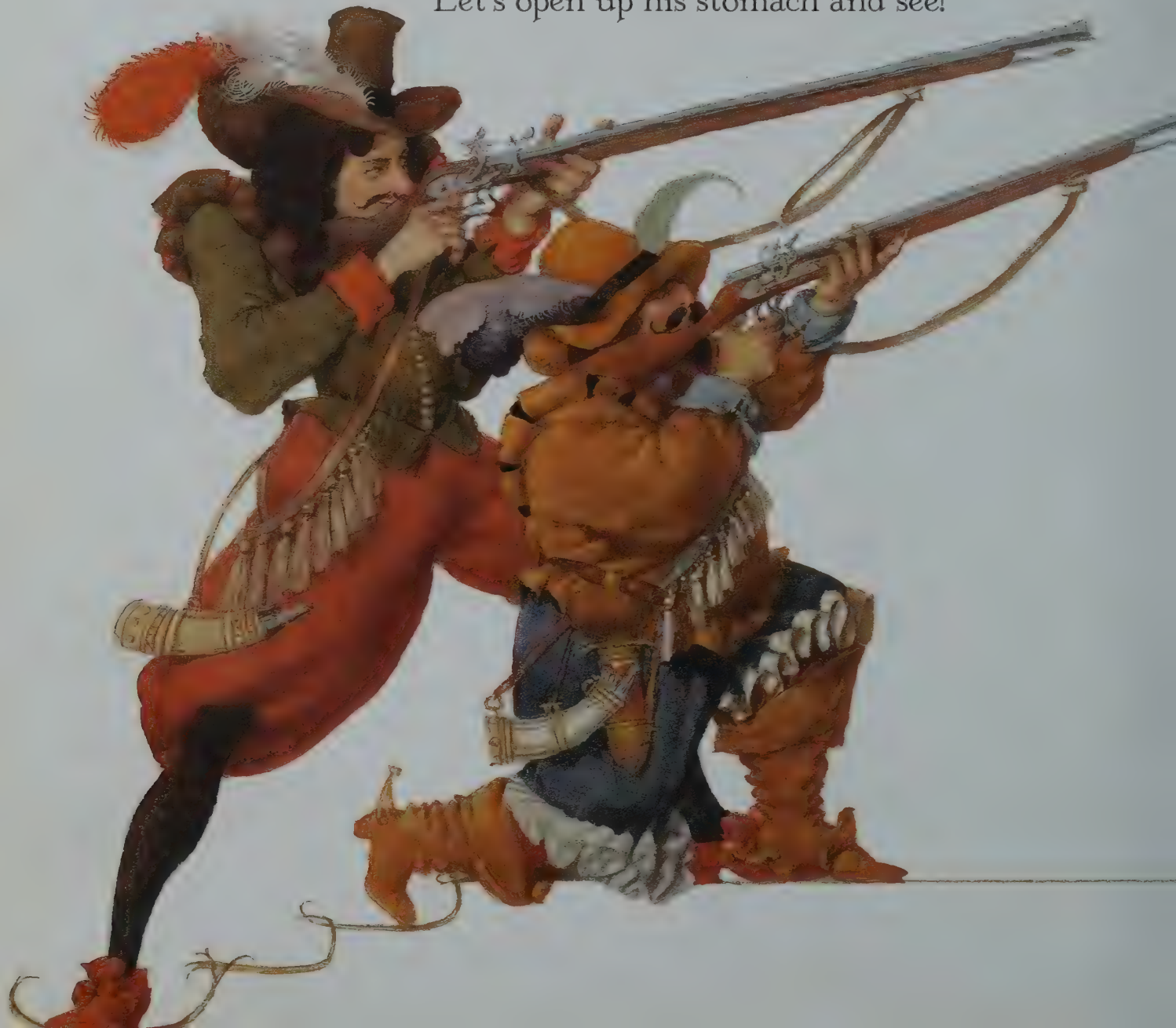
They pushed open the door and saw the wolf lying in the grandmother's bed.

"A great big wolf!" shouted the hunters. The wolf woke up and jumped to the floor.

The hunters lifted their guns to shoot him, but then they noticed the wolf's fat stomach.

"I bet that wicked wolf ate the old woman!" they yelled.

"Let's open up his stomach and see!"









They chased the wolf outdoors, took one of their hunting knives, and cut open his stomach.

Out jumped Little Red Riding Hood and her grandmother!

"It was dark in there!" cried Little Red Riding Hood. "I was so frightened!" She grabbed her grandmother's hand, and they ran back into the house as fast as they could go.





"I feel so much better," said Grandmother as she sat down in her favorite chair. Then she ate the cake that her granddaughter had brought her.

Little Red Riding Hood climbed into her grandmother's lap. "I will never leave the path again when my mother tells me not to," she said, and she gave her grandmother a hug and a kiss.









 Gennady Spirin grew up in a small town near Moscow and attended the Moscow Art School at the Academy of Art and the Moscow Stroganov Institute. He has received five gold medals from the Society of Illustrators in New York City, the Golden Apple from the Bratislava International Biennial, and first prize at both the Bologna and Barcelona international book fairs. His work has appeared four times on the annual *New York Times* Ten Best Illustrated Books of the Year list.

Mr. Spirin has illustrated many classic poems, songs, Bible stories, and tales, including, for Marshall Cavendish, *The Night Before Christmas*, *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, *Jesus*, and *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. Now a U.S. citizen, he lives with his wife and three sons in Princeton, New Jersey.

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Praise for  
*Goldilocks and the Three Bears*

★“Dozens of visions of Goldilocks, both rustic and refined, have skipped their way through children’s books, but none as elegantly as this one.” —*Kirkus*, starred review

“This newcomer will be embraced for its visual clarity and sumptuous style at story times and bedtimes alike.”

—*School Library Journal*

“Spirin’s magnificent, lavish illustrations are likely to find children poring over the book again and again.” —*Children’s Literature*

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